

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
AUGUST 17, 2006
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patty Gilbertson, Virginia Drug Court Association
Senator Mark R. Herring, State Senate
Inge Tracy, Department of Corrections
Janice Hicks, Department of Health
Kim Barnes, Department of Health
Catherine Hancock, Department of Medical Assistance Services
Ken Batten, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
Hope Merrick, Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP)
Vickie Johnson-Scott, Department of Social Services
Jack Mallory, Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs (VADAP)
Chuck Walsh, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)
Freddie Simons, Prevention Task Force, VACSB
Joseph Battle, Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)
John Gibney, Lawyers Helping Lawyers

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, DMHMRSAS
Marc Goldberg, DMHMRSAS
Mellie Randall, DMHMRSAS
Julie Truitt, DMHMRSAS
Richard Wright, DMHMRSAS

GUEST:

Mark Blackwell SAARA

I. WELCOME

The Chairperson called the meeting to order, and those in attendance introduced themselves.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2006 MEETING.

A motion was made by Mr. Battle and seconded by Ms. Hancock to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2006 meeting. The motion was carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion on whether the Council wished to continue rotating holding its meetings around the state. The last two meetings were held outside of Richmond and the attendance at those meetings was good. It was decided that, until further notice, the Council would continue to hold the meetings around the state.

IV. DISCUSSION OF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT (WORKING DRAFT)

Council members were provided with a working draft of the report. Ms. Randall informed the group that since the last draft there has been some significant additions to the report.

Discussion centered on the need to be very focused on the message to be conveyed to the legislators. The Council decided, by acclamation, that the report would contain only three recommendations. It was suggested that the Council's recommendations would guide the revisions to the draft report.

The three recommendations for the report encompassed:

- Medicaid funding for treatment.

- Underage drinking prevention initiative.

- The amendment to modify §2.2-2697-B of the Code.

A motion was made by Mr. Gibney and seconded by Mr. Simons to accept the noted three recommendations. The motion was carried.

Ms. Randall will make the changes to the draft report around the three recommendations. Council members will receive an electronic copy of a draft, which supports the recommendations. Since the Council will not meet again before the report is submitted, she asks that everyone review the electronic updated draft ASAP and provide comments/changes. A final draft will be sent to Council members for approval before final submission. The Chairman stated that it is imperative that members review these documents and provide feedback.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman stated that she would like to have a facilitated retreat for the Council some time in October. The retreat would allow Council to redefine its focus and get some sense of its role as a Council. Ms. Randall stated that the retreat would allow Council to participate in strategic planning for 2007. A motion was made and seconded to approve Council having a retreat some time in late October or early November. The motion was carried. Ms. Randall stated that she or Julie Truitt would forward possible dates to Council members for consideration (location to be determined at a later date).

Mr. Batten informed Council that the Project REMOTE Grant that the DMHMRSAS applied for in 2005 has been approved. The grant will address prescription drug abuse in the far southwestern part of the Commonwealth.

Ms. Randall updated the Council in reference to the status of the signing for the proclamation for Recovery Month (September). The proclamation has been forwarded to the Governor and staff is working through the process to set up a signing ceremony. As information becomes available Council members will be informed. Ms. Randall suggested Council members make inquiries in their local communities for activities in recognition of Recovery Month.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Ms. Randall provided Council with a handout of the potential actions emanating from the Council for the 2007 Session of the General Assembly. Ms. Randall stated that the package contains a code amendment, §2.2-2696 and 2.2-2679-B, which were included last year but were not addressed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Simons and seconded Mr. Batten to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette T. Bowser